

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 14, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 to 13, 17, 18 and 22 to 24 remain pending in the application, with Claims 3 to 5, 8 to 10, 14 to 16 and 19 to 21 having been cancelled, and Claims 23 and 24 having been newly-added. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17, 22 and 23 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title was objected to as allegedly being non-descriptive. A new title has been provided for as recited above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 22 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 to 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,397 (Satomi). Additionally, Claims 1 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,810,386 (Yurino). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to providing notification of printing based on valid dates. According to the invention, a server registers information to be distributed, and sets valid dates of the registered information at a service terminal. The service terminal receives the registered information from the server, and stores the registered information. Then, a determination is made (either by the service terminal or by the server) whether the stored information is printed or not at the service terminal, and a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal is notified based on a result of the determination and the set valid dates. (See, for example, Figs. 122 and 123 and page 86, line 12 to page 89, line 6.)

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is an information managing system comprising an information managing server for distributing information, and a service terminal for receiving the distributed information with from the

information managing server, wherein the information managing server comprises registration means for registering information to be distributed, and setting means for setting valid dates of the information registered by the registration means at the service terminal, and the service terminal comprises reception means for receiving the registered information from the information managing server, storage means for storing the registered information received by the reception means, determination means for determining whether the information stored by the storage means is printed or not at the service terminal, and notification means for providing notification information to a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal, wherein the notification information is based on a result of the determination by the determination means and based on the set valid dates.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 12 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is directed more specifically to the information managing server. Amended independent Claims 17 and 22 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

Newly-added independent Claim 23 is directed to a system along the lines of Claim 1, but more specifically is an information managing system comprising an information managing server for distributing information, and a service terminal for receiving the distributed information from the information managing server, wherein the information managing server comprises registration means for registering information to be distributed, setting means for setting valid dates of the information registered by the registration means at the service terminal, determination means for determining whether the information stored by storage means is printed or not at the service terminal, and notification means for providing notification information to a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal, wherein the notification information is based on the set valid dates and a determination result of the determination means, and wherein the service

terminal comprises reception means for receiving the registered information from the information managing server, and storage means for storing the registered information received by reception means.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of determining whether registered information stored in a storage means of a service terminal is printed or not at the service terminal, and providing notification information to a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal, wherein the notification information is based on a result of the determination and based on valid dates of the registered information which are set by an information managing apparatus that distributes information.

None of Claims 1 to 14, or Claims 15 to 32 of Satomi, disclose or suggest at least the feature of determining whether registered information stored in a storage means of a service terminal is printed or not at the service terminal, and providing notification information to a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal, wherein the notification information is based on a result of the determination and based on valid dates of the registered information which are set by an information managing apparatus that distributes information. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17, 22 and 23, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are non-obviously different from the claims of Satomi and withdrawal of the double-patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Yurino is merely seen to disclose a system disclosing information about companies at a disclosure time determined based on a trading time between companies. However, Yurino is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a service terminal is printed or not at the service terminal, and providing notification information to a communication terminal of a user who uses the service terminal, wherein the notification information is based on a result of the determination and based on valid dates of the registered information which are set by an information managing apparatus that distributes

information. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17, 22 and 23, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not believed to be anticipated by Yurino.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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